

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LA PAZ 00648 281751Z

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /055 W

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R 281600Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5494

INFO USCINCSO

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 0648

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, BL, CI

SUBJECT: SILES ZUAZO IS EXILED TO CHILE

REF: LA PAZ 0441

1. EX-PRESIDENT HERNAN SILES ZUAZO WAS EXILED TO ARICA, CHILE ON A BOLIVIAN MILITARY TRANSPORT PLANE JANUARY 24, TOGETHER WITH THIRTEEN OTHER SUSPECTED PLOTTERS. AMONG THE THIRTEEN WERE RENE JORDAN PANDO, BROTHER OF EXILED MNR POLITICIAN ROBERTO JORDAN PANDO, AS WELL AS FEDERICO ALVEREZ PLATA, SON OF THE MNR EXILE OF THE SAME NAME. NONE OF THE NEW GROUP OF EXILES, APART FROM SILES HIMSELF, IS A WELL-KNOWN FIGURE IN BOLIVIAN POLITICAL LIFE. NEWSPAPER REPORTS ON THE EXILING OF SILES INDICATE THAT HE PLANS TO TAKE UP AT LEAST TEMPORARY RESIDENCE IN SANTIAGO.

2. COMMENT: THE SILES INCIDENT, FROM THE FIRST RUMORS OF HIS CLANDESTINE ENTRY INTO BOLIVIA IN DECEMBER TO HIS CAPTURE BY SECURITY FORCES IN MID-JANUARY AND SUBSEQUENT EXILING, GAVE RISE TO A WIDE DIVERSITY OF POLITICAL COMMENTARY IN LA PAZ. SOME POLITICAL OBSERVERS CLAIM THAT THE INCIDENT HAS BEEN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LA PAZ 00648 281751Z

A MAJOR TRIUMPH FOR THE GOVERNMENT, BY DEMONSTRATING BOTH

THE CAPACITY OF THE GOB'S SECURITY FORCES AND THE REALITY OF THE GOVERNMENT'S FREQUENT CHARGES OF LEFTIST CONSPIRATORIAL ACTIVITY. AT THE SAME TIME, OTHER SOURCES BELIEVE THAT THE BANZER REGIME HAS ONLY DAMAGED ITS LONG-TERM PROSPECTS BY GIVING EXTENSIVE PUBLICITY TO SILES' PRESENCE, INCLUDING A BED-SIDE PRESS INTERVIEW WITH SILES WHILE HE WAS CARRYING OUT A HUNGER STRIKE IN THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR. OPINION IS ALSO DIVIDED AS TO THE DEGREE OF SERIOUSNESS TO BE ATTACHED TO THE PLOTTING ACTIVITY BEING CARRIED OUT BY SILES. AND ALTHOUGH THERE IS A VIRTUAL CONSENSUS THAT THE GOB HAS OVERCOME THE MOST SERIOUS OF ITS IMMEDIATE DIFFICULTIES, WITH THE DEPARTURE OF SILES AND THE RECENT RESOLUTION OF A 13-DAY MINE-WORKERS STRIKE (SEE SEPTTEL), FEW BOLIVIAN POLITICIANS WOULD DOUBT THAT SILES WILL RESUME ACTIVE PLOTTING AGAINST THE PRESENT BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT ONCE HE HAS RECOVERED FROM HIS RECENT SETBACK.

STEDMAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** EXPULSION, PRESS COMMENTS, PLOTS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 JAN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975LAPAZ00648  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750031-0801  
**From:** LA PAZ  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Line Count:** 79  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 LA PAZ 0441  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 03 SEP 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <03 SEP 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <17 DEC 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SILES ZUAZO IS EXILED TO CHILE  
**TAGS:** PINT, PGOV, BL, CI, (SILES ZUAZO, HERNAN), (JORDAN PANDO, RENE)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006